



## Define "Normal"

*By Julie Anne Peters*

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Now in its fourth hardcover printing, Define "Normal" has become a word-of-mouth phenomenon. This is a thoughtful, wry story about two girls-a "punk" and a "priss"-who find themselves facing each other in a peer-counseling program, and discover that they have some surprising things in common.

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## **Define "Normal" By Julie Anne Peters Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #2897156 in Books
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- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .63" w x 5.50" l,
- Binding: Paperback
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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this middle-school drama, two seeming opposites become friends and discover they are not such opposites after all. Peters (*How Do You Spell G-E-E-K?*) does little to update this well-trod theme, and while there are touching moments in her book, it's generally bland. Nerdy Antonia is assigned to peer-counsel Jazz, whom Antonia assumes is "hopeless. A punker. A druggie. A gang hanger." After a few agonizing sessions, Antonia begins to realize how much she needs someone to talk to. Her dad has split (as readers learn midway through), her mom's so depressed she can't get out of bed and Antonia's overwhelmed with responsibility and pain. Not only does Jazz literally intervene to get her family back on the road to recovery, but by offering her friendship, Antonia learns to depend on someone besides herself. In turn, she helps Jazz learn to talk to her parents and to compromise on arguments without compromising herself. They both learn that judging people by their outside appearance can be misleading. Occasionally, Peters captures a feeling perfectly, like Antonia's loneliness. "That's how I feel, I thought. Like a star..." she says, looking at the sky. "Distant. Detached. Blinking. On-off. On-off." Mostly, though, the exposition depends more on telling than showing. Ages 8-12. (Apr.)

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From School Library Journal

Grade 7-10-When Antonia is assigned to Jazz as a peer counselor, she figures there is no way she can help this tattooed, pierced, incorrigible girl. They are complete opposites. Antonia is a straight-A student whose parents are divorced and she is struggling to keep what's left of her family together as her mother battles depression. Jazz's family is wealthy and seemingly perfect. As they continue through the 15 hours of peer counseling, it becomes clear that both girls have issues they need to work through. They go from wary classmates to friends who support and help one another. As Antonia's mother is hospitalized for her depression, Jazz battles her own mother's need to control by quitting the one thing she loves most-playing classical piano. Both girls deal with their losses by finding new ways to look at their problems and to resume life as "normally" as possible. This believable book is well written and readers will feel that they know both Jazz and Antonia, and they will want to see them triumph over the frustrations in their lives.

*Kimberly A. Ault, Lewisburg Area High School, PA*

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From [Booklist](#)

Antonia Dillon, a driven honor student at Oberon Middle School, is not surprised when she is asked to become a peer counselor. It's just another honor to add to her resume. But her first counseling session is pure culture shock--Antonia has been paired with the notorious Jasmine "Jazz" Luther, a punker with incredible attitude who uses black lipstick and is into body piercing and tattoos. As the two girls reluctantly continue their sessions, a strange, tentative friendship develops, with each girl gradually revealing more and more about her troubled life. Antonia admits that her divorced mother is deeply depressed and unable to work or care for her family; Jazz talks about her controlling, materialistic yuppie parents and their expectations. As secret after secret is exchanged, it becomes obvious that the "priss" and the punker are made to be best friends. Although the book is marred by one-dimensional secondary characters and a pat conclusion, girls will still enjoy the appealing main characters in this after-school-special-style friendship story. A quick, enjoyable read that will also attract reluctant readers. *Jean Franklin*

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Deborah Anderson:**

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled Define "Normal". Try to make the book Define "Normal" as your friend. It means that it can for being your friend when you really feel alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you personally. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So , let us make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

#### **Kristen Hamilton:**

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information these days can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even a huge concern. What people must be consider when those information which is in the former life are hard to be find than now could be taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you have it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take Define "Normal" as your daily resource information.

#### **Katherine Wilcoxon:**

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? May be reading a book might be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the guide untitled Define "Normal" can be fine book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

#### **Macie Austin:**

That publication can make you to feel relax. This specific book Define "Normal" was colourful and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book Define "Normal" has many kinds or type. Start from kids until youngsters. For example Naruto or Investigator Conan you can read and think you are the character on there. So , not at all of book usually are make you bored, any it makes you feel happy, fun and unwind. Try to choose the best book in your case and try to like reading which.

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